

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00

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R 191640Z JUN 75

FM AMEMBASSY LISBON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3139

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MADRID

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

USMISSION NATO

DIA WASHDC

USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GER

C O N F I D E N T I A L LISBON 3438

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, PO

SUBJ: REPUBLICA/RADIO RENASCENCA SITREP

REFS: (A) LISBON 3425 (B) FBIS LONDON 190309Z JUN 75

(C) LISBON 3416

1. REPUBLICA AND RADIO RENASCENCA CASES REMAIN IN CONFRONTATION STAGE. WORKERS CONTINUE TO OCCUPY REPUBLICA OFFICES, WHICH THEY ENTERED MORNING JUNE 18 WHEN THEY WERE UNSEALED BY COPCON OFFICERS PRIOR TO ARRIVAL OF REPUBLICA DIRECTORS. ANGRY SOCIALIST CROWD CONTINUES TO MAINTAIN VIGIL OUTSIDE OFFICES, AND RAUL REGO AND OTHERS HAVE BEEN IN AND OUT OF BUILDING DURING DAY ATTEMPTING TO NEGOTIATE SOLUTION SATISFACTORY TO SOCIALISTS. COPCON, FOLLOWING ISSUANCE OF ITS STRONGLY WORDED STATEMENT REFUTING CHARGES BY REPUBLICA DIRECTORS, CONTINUES TO HOLD TO UNCONVINCING LINE THAT THEY DOING NOTHING MORE THAN UPHOLDING THE LAW (REF B).

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2. BATTLE FOR CONTROL OF RADIO RENASCENCA (RR) PRODUCED
DRAMATIC AND HIGHLY VISIBLE CONFRONTATION EVENING/EARLY MORNING
JUNE 18/19 OUTSIDE EPISCOPAL PALACE OF LISBON'S CARDINAL PATRIARCH.
SEVERAL HUNDRED CATHOLICS GATHERED OUTSIDE PALACE TO DEMONSTRATE
SUPPORT FOR HIERARCHY IN FACE OF HOSTILE DEMONSTRATION CALLED TO
SUPPORT LEFTIST RR WORKERS (REF C). UNARMED, LARGELY FEMALE CATH-
OLIC GROUP WAS SOON UNDER ATTACK BY FAR LEFT DEMONSTRATORS.
HOSTILE CHANTS DETERIORATED INTO STONE THROWING. MILITARY POLICE
ON SCENE FIRED INTO AIR TO MAINTAIN ORDER. CATHOLIC DEMONSTRATORS
WERE FORCED SEEK REFUGE INSIDE PALACE, FROM WHICH MILITARY
VEHICLES SUBSEQUENTLY EVACUATED MOST OF THEM. HOWEVER, SOME
HAVE REMAINED INSIDE THE PALACE.

3. COMMENT: BOTH CASES STILL FAR FROM SETTLEMENT. DRAMATIC
CONFRONTATIONS OCCURRING ALMOST SIMULTANEOUSLY UNDERSCORES
LINKAGE OF TWO CASES AND FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ISSUE.
MODERATE (SOCIALISTS AND CHURCH) ELEMENTS ARE AROUSED AND FINALLY
BEGINNING TO SUPPORT ONE ANOTHER IN PUBLIC. BUT IT IS EXTREMELY
LATE IN THE GAME.
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